vegetables, floriculture items, spices and processed foods where there is potential for rapid growth, Expert Groups were set up. Based on the recommendations of these Groups detailed Action Plans have been worked out and follow up action is being taken on them. However, this is being ensured that export of agricultural commodities is promoted in such a manner that domestic availability of mass consumption is not affected.

No decision to export wheat has been taken. However, export of wheat products from the open market upto a maximum of one lakh MTs will be allowed during 18(93-94. As regards rice, ex-port of basmati and non-basmati super-ne rice is permissible subject only to a minimum export price (MEP) restriction. A quota of 50 thousand MTs of coarse grain has been released and 2 lakh *MTs* of non-FAO Jowar have also been allowed for export.

Export of tyres

3152. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

ta) whether it is a fact that there is consistent growth in the export of tyres ;;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to ensure still higher growth in the export of tyres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Export of auto tyres has recorded a steady growth from Rs 202.1 crores in 1991-92 to Rs. 481.6 crores in 1992-93. Keeping in view further potential growth in the sector, the auto tyre industry has projected export target at the level of Rs. 600 crores for the current financial year.

(Source :—Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta)

Misuse of the duty-free licence norma

3153. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is losing considerable revenue due to misuse of the Duty-free licence norms;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the extent of revenue loss suffered by the country during the year 1992-93 and so far in 1993;

(c) whether there is an increase in number of applications received by Government during the above period from exporters to get value based Duty-free Licence on fictitious export orders;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to check the misuse of Duty-free Licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF *COMMERCE (SHRI* KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Advance Licence under Duty Exemptions Scheme are issued for import of raw materials, components, parts, etc. Duty-free for manufacture of export product with permissible wastage and on specified value addition. The question of loss of revenue to the Government, therefore, does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no evidence to prove that there is an increase in the number of applications received by the Government during 1992-93 from the exporters to get value based duty-free licence on fictitious export orders. Licences are issued on the basis of copy of export orders filed by exporters and there is no practice for verifying these orders either from buyers or through our embassies/missions abroad. However, with a view to checking possible misuse of value based licensing scheme, it has been decided to issue all such licences only from the Headquarters.

Increase in the export duty by Nepal

'3154. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent increase in the export duty by Nepal would adversely affect the exports from Nepal to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of imports from India to Nepal at present;

(d) whether Customs relief on the imports from India would help in the increase of imports in future: and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC